

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. In the claims

As shown in the foregoing AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS, the claims have been amended to more clearly point out the subject matter for which protection is sought.

Claim 1 is canceled and the subject matter thereof merged with amended claims 2 and 3.

Claims 2 and 3 are each amended to include the elements of canceled claim 1 and are rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added since the amendment merely merges the subject matter of previously submitted claims.

Claim 4 is left unchanged.

Entry of the AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS is respectfully requested in the next Office communication.

2. Rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,536,162 (*LeMay*)

This rejection is rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

3. Allowable subject matter

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in pending claims 2-4 in the Office action on page 3. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the elements of canceled base claim 1. Claim 4 depends from claim 2, and thus is allowable as containing all of the elements of claim 2. Thus, claims 2-4 are considered to be allowable and the issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/800,615

Examiner: Horton, Y. M.

Art Unit: 3635

4. Conclusion

As a result of the amendment to the claims, and further in view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that every pending claim in the present application be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the applicant's attorney, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown below.

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC  
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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Respectfully submitted,



JUSTIN J. CASSELL  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 46,205